



**Seth Walker**

University of Oregon

**Age:** 32

**Year:** Second year Master's Candidate, Completed BA, 1995

**Major:** Masters Literary Nonfiction, BA Public Relations

**Goal:** to write and publish contemporary histories; public interest advocacy

Seth Walker is a student of the Oregon University System in more ways than one. An Oregon native and the son of UO faculty, Seth's family traveled all over the world when he was a child, giving him a unique perspective on "just how great a place Oregon is." He made a very conscious decision at age eighteen to stay in Oregon and pursue his education. He has recently made a new kind of return to Oregon's universities, this time from the world of industry. Seth speaks very fondly of his undergraduate experience at UO, recalling his professors as "unbelievable professionals." When he graduated from the UO School of Journalism & Communication as an undergraduate, he was hired by Intel in media relations, and helped manage the company's relationship with technical media for nearly eight years during the country's recent tech boom. He felt challenged and fortunate throughout his twenties, but always wanted to contribute publicly in addition to using his corporate writing skills. Considering his options, he discovered that UO was the best place for him once again. He is now pursuing a master's in literary non-fiction writing, and feels extremely fortunate to be one of 10 students mentored by Journalism professor Lauren Kessler, whom he describes as "one of the true gems of Oregon." Seth writes histories on contemporary issues from personal perspectives that he hopes "help navigate our way through and lead our modern lives." An essay regarding an experience he had in Tiananmen Square was recently selected in a national contest and will be published by National Geographic Traveler. He has also published two cover stories in the Eugene Weekly, has forthcoming stories in other publications including the Oregon Quarterly, and is in contact with an agent about a book he is currently researching about the rise of environmentalism and outdoor adventure sport after World War II. He is grateful for the honor of a Graduate Teaching Fellowship, and enjoys assisting in undergraduate lecture courses. After graduating this June, he is considering law school, and more than anything, is committed to contributing the skills his education has provided him toward a greater good: "The Northwest is my home, and I am committed to making a difference here."